

coil is excited by the application of a voltage so as to generate a magnetic flux canceling the magnetic flux of a permanent magnet 52. According to this a movable block 50 is rotated against the magnetic force of the permanent magnet 52, and the lower end of a movable iron piece 51 is attracted to a yoke. Therefore, the card 40 slides horizontally against the spring force of the regulating spring 30. Consequently, a movable contact 22 touches and separates from a fixed contact 26.

In a previous Office Action the Examiner urged that the top part of movable contact piece (spring) 21 has a U-shaped hook.

Applicant disagreed, noting that FIG. 4 shows spring 21 having a trapezoidal-shaped "upper bed edge (21a)" and a traveling contact 22 having a dome-shape, as shown in FIG. 6(b). No portion of spring 21 is shaped like a U-shaped hook, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

The Examiner now urges that "element 21a or the top of element 21 is a U-shape starting from the right side then going to the top then to the left side."

As noted previously, this is not a U-shape but instead a trapezoidal shape. "U-shaped" means bent in the shape of a U and, furthermore, claim 1 further recites a "U-shaped hook," where "hook" is defined in Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, 1991 as a "curved or bent piece of metal," as shown in FIGS. 4a and 4b of the instant application for item 400. Upper bed edge (21a) of spring 21 in Kazunari et al. is not a "U-shaped hook" as recited in claim 1.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 has been allowed.

In view of the remarks above, claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.